[30th January 1929

### III

### MOTION REGARDING THE APPOINTMENT OF A COMMITTEE TO ENQUIRE INTO THE ECONOMIC CONDITION OF THE DISTRICTS OF KISTNA, GODAVARI EAST AND GODAVARI WEST.

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—Mr. President, Sir, I move :—

12 noon

' *That with reference to the resolution passed by the Council at the meeting held on 28th November 1928, regarding the appointment of a committee to enquire into the economic condition of the districts of Kistna, Godavari East and Godavari West, the Council do proceed to elect a committee of five of its members to make the enquiry and to report to Government by the 1st October 1929.*'

"In moving this proposition, Sir, I desire to explain briefly the position of the Government in this matter. The settlement rules provide for the collection of certain information regarding economic condition. The Settlement officer and his assistants have compiled from public records and from examination of registered deeds and from village enquiries a considerable amount of information which the Settlement officer has reviewed and upon which he has stated his conclusions in his report. In accordance with the established practice, that report had been placed on the table of this House and published for criticism not only of the Members of this House but of all those interested in the matter outside. Without going again over the ground which was covered at the previous debate, I think I may say that it was quite clear that the House wanted that opportunity should be given for a further and closer examination of the matter by those who are chiefly interested in it. It is to give this opportunity that this motion has been tabled. All the materials which the Settlement officer has collected will be forwarded to the elected committee and, if they desire further or other information from the records of the Government, arrangements will be made to supply it if it can possibly be done. Government officials would be authorized to give the Committee all practicable assistance. They will, of course, be at liberty to make further enquiries themselves and collect any data they wish. Subject to the vote of the Council, the necessary expenses will be paid. Lastly, I may say that the Government will keep an open mind on the subject and give their best consideration to the report the Committee may make before coming to any decision as to the alteration of the present rates of assessment."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I beg to second the motion."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" Sir, I beg to move a formal amendment which is as follows :—

*After the words " to elect " insert the words ' in accordance with the regulations made by the hon. the President under Standing Order No. 77 for the holding of elections by means of the single transferable vote '.*"

Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR :—" I second it."

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I have no objection whatsoever, Sir, to that amendment."

The amendment was put to the vote and carried.

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI :—" I move, Sir, that in line 5 for the word ' five ' the word ' seven ' be substituted."

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Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—" I second it."

* The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" The more members there are, Sir, the more difficulty in enquiring and reporting; and the expense will also be more. But it is a matter for the House to consider."

* Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Personally I think, Sir, that the number need not be increased at all. If work has to be done expeditiously and well, I think the number must be as limited as possible consisting of people who are competent and able to carry on the work. I do not think anything would be gained by increasing the number and it is unnecessary."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" It is somewhat surprising, Sir, that when the hon. the Leader of the House has got no objection to the increase suggested, my hon. Friend the ex-Minister has felt the responsibility so heavy on his shoulders that he should come forward to protest against the increased cost and increased difficulty."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" I did not say anything about the cost, Sir. He is imputing to me words which I did not express."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" He spoke of increased difficulties. I have some experience of such work, and it seems to me that in a complicated and difficult matter of this kind where the interests of the ryots of three districts are concerned there should be real and adequate representation of at least these three districts. If the amendment of my hon. Friend is carried, the representatives who will be elected will be sufficiently representative of every section of opinion in this House. I would therefore appeal to my friend, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, not to press the objection against the increase proposed. I would ask the House in all humility to accept the very small increase in the number of members of this Committee."

Mr. C. RAMASOMAYAJULU :—" Sir, in supporting the amendment that has been moved, may I point out to my hon. Friend, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, that it is not possible to get adequate representation on the Committee of the districts really intended to be represented, unless the number is at least seven. It is a very serious and complicated question which affects three districts, and naturally the number five will not be sufficient to include the representatives of all the three districts. Therefore I do not think it stands to reason to oppose this amendment."

The amendment was put to the vote and declared lost. Mr. S. Satyamurti demanded a poll, which was accordingly taken with the following result :

*Ayes.*

1. Mr. Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar.
2. ,, Munshi Abdul Wahab Sahib.
3. ,, J. Bheemayya.
4. ,, P. J. Gnanavaram Pillai.
5. ,, T. M. Narayanaswami Pillai.
6. ,, L. C. Guruswami.
7. ,, W. P. A. Soundara Pandya Nadar.
8. ,, Daniel Thomas.
9. ,, S. Venkayya.
10. ,, K. Abdul Hye Sahib.
11. ,, K. Ramachandra Padayachi.
12. ,, U. Ramaswami Ayyar.
13. ,, G. R. Premayya.
14. Mr. V. Ramjee Rao.
15. ,, Sami Venkatachalam Chetti.
16. ,, S. Satyamurti.
17. ,, T. Adinarayana Chettiyar.
18. ,, P. Anjaneyulu.
19. ,, P. C. Venkatapati Raju.
20. ,, J. A. Saldanha.
21. ,, Abdul Hamid Khan Sahib.
22. ,, G. S. Govindaraja Mudaliyar.
23. ,, G. Harisarvottama Rao.
24. ,, C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar.
25. ,, K. V. R. Swami.
26. ,, D. Narayana Raju.

*Ayes*—cont.

27. Mr. K. Uppi Sahib.
28. ,, K. R. Karant.
29. ,, C. Obi Reddi.
30. ,, A. Parasurama Rao.
31. ,, C. Ramasomayajulu.
32. ,, Basheer Ahmad Sayeed.
33. ,, P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu.
34. Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo.
35. Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao.
36. ,, R. Srinivasa Ayyangar.
37. ,, K. Koti Reddi.
38. ,, L. K. Tulasiram.
39. ,, K. V. Krishnaswami Nayakar.
40. ,, K. Madhavan Nayar.
41. ,, B. Venkataratnam.
42. Mr. Chavadi K. Subrahmanya Pillai.
43. ,, K. R. Venkatarama Ayyar.
44. ,, C. Gopala Menon.
45. ,, B. Ramachandra Reddi.
46. Rao Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar.
47. ,, Sir A. P. Patro.
48. Diwan Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu.
49. Mr. T. K. Chidambaranatha Mudaliyar.
50. ,, Muhammad Khadir Mohidin Sahib.
51. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar.
52. Khan Sahib T. M. Moidoo Sahib.
53. Rao Bahadur B. Munuswami Nayudu.
54. Mr. A. V. Bhanoji Rao.

*Noes.*

1. Mr. Mahmud Schamnad Sahib.
2. ,, N. Siva Raj.
3. Rao Sahib R. Srinivasan.

Ayes 54. Noes 3.

The amendment was carried.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The amended motion is for the consideration of the House."

* Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" Sir, I for myself would request the hon. the Leader of the House to give us some idea of the gentleman who is going to be the chairman of this committee. We on our side would request him to allow a non-official member as chairman or at least to allow the members of this committee to elect their own chairman. I expected to get some idea as to the procedure to be adopted by this committee, because there is already a report and we desire that a thorough investigation should be instituted and the necessary evidence both documentary and oral let in so that the ryots on their side may have no cause of complaint afterwards. Under these circumstances I would appeal to the Government first to consider and decide the necessity of having a non-official chairman, that is, a chairman to be elected by the members of this committee and secondly of giving all the necessary scope to the members of this committee to have access to papers both confidential or ortherwise and to record the evidence without hindering any evidence that may be useful for the consideration either of the Government or of the members of the committee. It is also my submission that the officer who first investigated and reported should be put on the committee."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" I should like also to know from the hon. the Leader of the House whether, in addition to the seven members to be elected, the Government proposes to make any nominations and if so, of officials or non-officials, so that we may know exactly what the committee will be, what its composition will be and what its procedure will be."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA ;—" Mr. President, Sir, this is a very important departure from the policy of the Government and while congratulating the Government and expressing the gratitude of the Council that the Government are taking into their confidence the representatives of the people as

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regards the incidence of taxation and the increase, I may point out that it will be better for the Government and this Council to lay down certain principles on which these bodies should be elected. To some extent it will be a judicial body to decide certain very important points. As far as possible the members of these bodies should not belong to the districts about which they are asked to enquire and report."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Is the hon. Member proposing any amendment as to the description or class of members or method of election ?"

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"I want that principle to be laid down by this Council. I am not going to bring in any amendment. I am only suggesting a course of action."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"My difficulty is this. If I understand the hon. Member correctly, he wants to appeal to the Members of this House as to the class of persons who are to be on the Committee and who are to be excluded from the Committee. If that be the object, this is not the proper occasion to discuss the matter unless the hon. Member gives an amendment. Here the course prescribed is that the election should take place by means of the single transferable vote according to the rules framed under Standing Order No. 77. That Standing Order does not contain any such restrictions. And therefore if really the hon. Member wants to discuss that aspect of the question, I think he will do well to give notice of a motion or amendment to that effect."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"I have no time to frame an amendment embodying my ideas."     12-15 p.m.

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I take it the House is now ready for a vote."

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—"Sir, there is only one point on which I wish to say something. The Government do not propose to nominate any official members to the Committee as they wish to avoid even the appearance of influencing the Committee in any way."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I now put the motion as amended to the vote of the House, namely,—

'That with reference to the resolution passed by the Council at the meeting held on 28th November 1928 regarding the appointment of a committee to enquire into the economic condition of the districts of Kistna, Godavari East and Godavari West, the Council do proceed to elect, in accordance with the regulations made by the hon. the President under Standing Order No. 77 for the holding of elections by means of the single transferable vote, a committee of seven of its members to make the enquiry and to report to Government by the 1st October 1929.'"

The motion was put and carried.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"With reference to the motion of the hon. the Revenue Member just now adopted by the Council, I fix 5 p.m. to-day as the time within which notices of nominations should be given to the Secretary."